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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/510,977	10/13/2004	Masaaki Yamauchi	2004_1445A	6157
513	7590	05/02/2006	EXAMINER	
WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P.			TRAN, THUY V	
2033 K STREET N. W.			ART UNIT	
SUITE 800			PAPER NUMBER	
WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1021			2821	

DATE MAILED: 05/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/510,977	YAMAUCHI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thuy V. Tran	2821	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on amendment filed 01/30/2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 4-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 4-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 October 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/13/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This is a response to the Applicants' amendment submitted on 01/30/2006. In virtue of this amendment, claims 1-3 are canceled; claims 4-6 are newly added; and thus, claims 4-6 are now presented in the instant application.

Applicants are noted that the substitute specification and new abstract submitted on January 30, 2006 have been accepted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Kazuyuki et al. (JP-2002-075208).

With respect to claim 4, Kazuyuki et al. discloses, in Figs. 1-4, a plasma display panel comprising (1) a display electrode formed of a pair of a scan electrode [102a] and a sustain electrode [102b]; (2) a dielectric layer [103] is disposed so as to cover said display electrode; and (3) a protecting layer [104] is formed on said dielectric layer [103]. The limitation "wherein an aging discharge is performed in said plasma display panel by applying a voltage having an alternate voltage component at least between said scan electrode and said sustain electrode" recited in lines 5-7 of the claim is directed to the performance of an aging discharge, which convincingly is an intended use, and the limitation "wherein, in said plasma display panel, a discharge dent on said protecting layer on the side of said sustain electrode, which is formed by

Art Unit: 2821

the aging discharge, has a width which is narrower than a discharge dent on said protecting layer on the side of said scan electrode” recited in lines 8-11 of the claim takes place as a result of such intended use. These limitations are not given patentable weight since it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus if the prior art apparatus teaches all the structural limitations of the claim. See MPEP § 2114.

With respect to claim 5, Kazuyuki et al. discloses, in Figs. 1-4, a plasma display panel comprising (1) a display electrode formed of a pair of a scan electrode [102a] and a sustain electrode [102b]; (2) a dielectric layer [103] disposed so as to cover said display electrode; and (3) a protecting layer [104] formed on said dielectric layer [103]. The limitation “wherein an aging discharge is performed in said plasma display panel by applying a voltage having an alternate voltage component at least between said scan electrode and said sustain electrode” recited in lines 5-7 of the claim is directed to the performance of an aging discharge, which convincingly is an intended use, and the limitation “wherein, in said plasma display panel, as for a discharge dent formed on said protecting layer on the side of said sustain electrode, which is formed by the aging discharge, the discharge dent formed on said protecting layer in an area away from said scan electrode paired with said sustain electrode as said display electrode has a depth which is shallower than the discharge dent formed on said protecting layer in an area close to said scan electrode paired with said sustain electrode as said display electrode” recited in lines 8-13 of the claim takes place as a result of such intended use. These limitations are not given patentable weight since it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a

Art Unit: 2821

prior art apparatus if the prior art apparatus teaches all the structural limitations of the claim. See MPEP § 2114.

With respect to claim 6, Kazuyuki et al. discloses, in Figs. 1-4, a method of aging a plasma display panel having a scan electrode [102a], a sustain electrode [102b], and a data electrode [202]; said method comprising performing an aging discharge by applying a voltage having an alternate voltage component (see Figs. 1-2) at least between the scan electrode [102a] and the sustain electrode [102b], wherein a leading edge of a waveform of voltage applied to the scan electrode [102a] (see Fig. 1) has a mild slope, and the waveform of voltage applied to the scan electrode [102a] is different in shape from the waveform of voltage applied to the sustain electrode [102b] (see Fig. 1).

Citation of relevant prior art

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Prior art Rhee (U.S. Patent No. 6,975,286 B2) discloses a method for aging process in plasma display panel; and

Prior art Tokunaga et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,630,796 B2) discloses a method and apparatus for driving a plasma display panel.

Remarks and conclusion

4. Applicant's arguments filed on 01/30/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to Applicants' arguments on new claims 4-5 at pages 5-8 referring to the performance of an aging process and the formation of a discharge dent with respect to the

Art Unit: 2821

protecting layer and the sustain electrode, it is noted that such limitations convincingly relate to an intended use. Specifically, (i) in claim 4, the limitation “wherein an aging discharge is performed in said plasma display panel by applying a voltage having an alternate voltage component at least between said scan electrode and said sustain electrode” recited in lines 5-7 of the claim is directed to the performance of an aging discharge, which convincingly is an intended use, and the limitation “wherein, in said plasma display panel, a discharge dent on said protecting layer on the side of said sustain electrode, which is formed by the aging discharge, has a width which is narrower than a discharge dent on said protecting layer on the side of said scan electrode” recited in lines 8-11 of the claim takes place as a result of such intended use, and (ii) in claim 5, the limitation “wherein an aging discharge is performed in said plasma display panel by applying a voltage having an alternate voltage component at least between said scan electrode and said sustain electrode” recited in lines 5-7 of the claim is directed to the performance of an aging discharge, which convincingly is an intended use, and the limitation “wherein, in said plasma display panel, as for a discharge dent formed on said protecting layer on the side of said sustain electrode, which is formed by the aging discharge, the discharge dent formed on said protecting layer in an area away from said scan electrode paired with said sustain electrode as said display electrode has a depth which is shallower than the discharge dent formed on said protecting layer in an area close to said scan electrode paired with said sustain electrode as said display electrode” recited in lines 8-13 of the claim takes place as a result of such intended use. All the limitations raised above are not given patentable weight since it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus if the prior art apparatus

Art Unit: 2821

teaches all the structural limitations of the claim. See MPEP § 2114. Therefore, claims 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by the teachings of Kazuyuki et al..

In response to Applicants' argument on new claim 6 in the sixth paragraph at page 8 in which Applicants state that Fig. 1 of Kazuyuki et al. discloses that the waveforms of the voltage applied to the scan electrode and the sustain electrode have the same shape, it is respectfully noted with a disagreement that they are not in the same shape at least in the front ends. Therefore, claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by the teachings of Kazuyuki et al..

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Inquiry

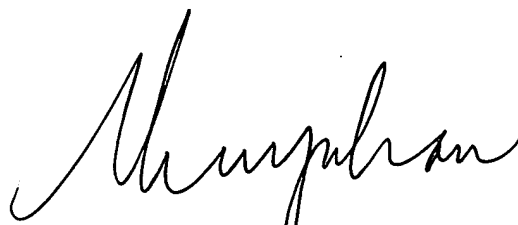
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuy V. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-1828. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00 AM -4:00 PM).

Art Unit: 2821

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy P. Callahan can be reached on (571) 272-1740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

04/28/2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thuy V. Tran', is written in a cursive style.

THUY V. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER